APL2131

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
ART UNIT 2131

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

applicants: Masahiro Okada et al. Enter with RCG

Confirmation No: 9209

Serial No. : 10/000,427

Filed: November 30, 2001

TC/A.U.

: 2131

Examiner

A. K. Moorthy

Docket No.

01-730

Customer No.

34704

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated February 15, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire May 15, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 15 of this paper.